Danger to rail tracks due to illegal mining of coal

1321. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is danger to rail tracks on account of illegal mining of coal in West Bengal and Bihar;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure safety of rail passengers and to prevent any mishaps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Regular inspections are being conducted on Railways. As soon as any case of illegal mining on Railways land come to notice, Divisional authorities take prompt action and advise Civil and Mining authorities.

(c) Prevention of illegal mining activities is the subject matter of State Government concerned. Railway has requested to State Government and Eastern Coal Field Limited (ECL) authorities to take necessary action.

As and when cases of illegal mining are noticed, Railway take immediate action to stop these activities and advise Civil Authorities also. In case any danger to railway traffic is noticed, then railway traffic is also suspended, if situation so warrants.

Gangmen died on duty

1322. SHRI SANJAY RAUT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gangmen died on duty due to train accidents, while actually repairing the railway tracks in the year 2005-06 and how many died in the current year;

(b) what precautions his Ministry proposes to save the precious life of gangmen while repairing railway track;

(c) how much compensation is paid to each gangman who dies, while working on railway track; and

(d) whether his Ministry give employment to one member of family of gangman who dies in the accident?